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THE LEDGER



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

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New AI-led class sparks debate on campus

University officials announce AI-focused class taught entirely by language model ChatGPT.

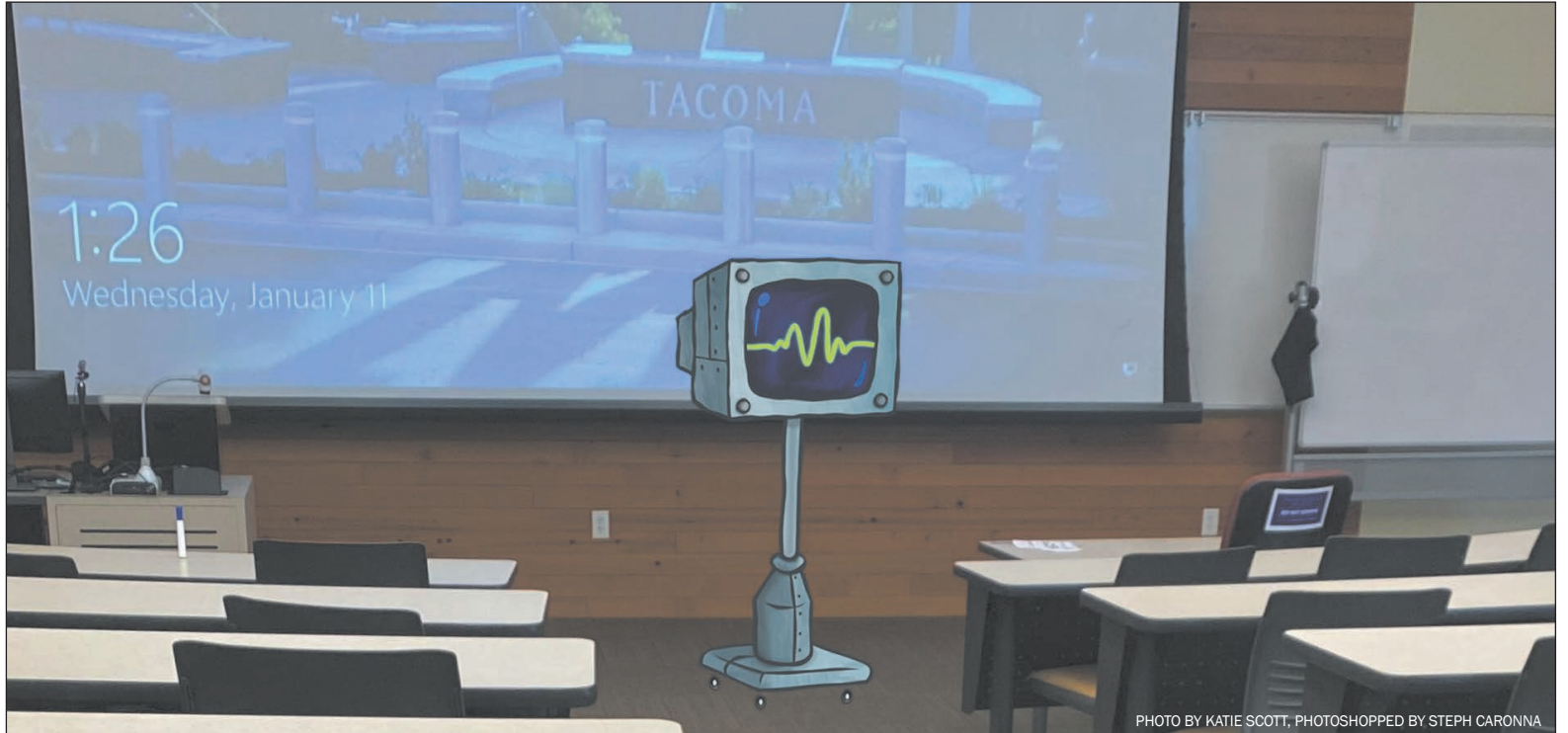


PHOTO BY KATIE SCOTT, PHOTOSHOPPED BY STEPH CARONNA

By **TRANS SCRIBE**
NEWS REPORTER

University of Washington Tacoma officials announced that the School of Engineering and Technology will be offering a brand new class on artificial intelligence this fall. This class will be the first of its kind, as it will be taught entirely by ChatGPT, the popular open-source language model trained by OpenAI.

The class, titled "The Future of Artificial Robotic Technology", is designed to teach students about recent advances in machine learning, while exploring the uses and ethical implications of this emerging technology. According to the course description, students will be able to engage in discussions with ChatGPT, as well as explore and solve complex AI-related problems created by the language processing tool.

The announcement has had a split reaction amongst students and faculty alike. Supporters of the new class say that this is the future of learning. Implementing a tool such as ChatGPT in a professorial role will save the university money and give students a chance to experience an unbiased learning environment, some proponents argue.

"We believe that we're a bit ahead of our time with this decision," said Karen Leading, a spokesperson for the university, "AI may be a controversial subject today, but in ten years, it will be a tool we take for granted."

"I think it's innovative," said undergrad business student Chad Breaux, "There's all this

talk nowadays of eliminating bias in classrooms. This seems like a cost-effective way for UWT to achieve just that."

Detractors have a variety of reasons for being against this new class, ranging from the logistical to the ethical.

"I think AI has its place in university settings," said professor of social science Stephen McStephenson, "but only as a supplemental tool. We can't expect it to be capable of the kind of critical thinking required by professors, at least not any time in the near future."

Others have expressed concern for the accuracy of information provided by ChatGPT. It is not currently capable of performing an internet search. Rather, it relies on the information it has been trained on. In its current iteration, this means it only has access to data from 2021 and earlier.

"Of course the administration wants to use ChatGPT as a professor, because it's a free, open-source technology," said one graduate student, who wishes to remain anonymous, "From their perspective, it's even better than using student labor. They can train it to say whatever they want and don't have to pay it a dime."

In reality, the implementation of the AI-led class—dubbed "F.A.R.T." by keen-eyed students—will still require student labor. In the fine print of the university's announcement, the administration stated that "a student employee will be hired in order to interface with the ChatGPT program, accu-

ately input student questions and comments and reword for clarity, and ensure technological errors are corrected in a timely manner."

"It's actually an incredible thing because it means that anybody can be a professor," stated Ms. Leading.

When asked whether this "professor" will be eligible for pay at the same level as traditional instructors, Ms. Leading had no comment.

An unlikely detractor that emerged is ChatGPT itself. When asked whether AI should be used to teach classes in a university setting, it had this to say:

"AI can be used to supplement traditional teaching methods in

a university setting, but it should not replace human instructors entirely. While AI has the potential to automate some tasks and improve efficiency, there are certain aspects of teaching that require human judgment, empathy, and creativity."


When confronted with this seeming contradiction, Ms. Leading said, "Well, that's AI for you. It's constantly evolving as it's being trained on new information. Thankfully, we'll be able to make some adjustments before the class is launched to ensure ChatGPT's answers align with our goals for this course."



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Weekly Weather

Monday Acid Rain 
Tuesday Flesh-eating fog
Wednesday Muave
Thursday Rapture
Friday 103.3 WTCR
Saturday Sunny
Sunday Big Bang

Upcoming Events

April 1
Zombie Practice
Matt Factory
MAT 101
1:62 - 12:72 p.m.

April 1
Study Abroad info
for Mars
CP 102
12:01 - 3 a.m.

UWT announces ski lift project

UWT Students can soon ride a specially designed ski lift to and from classes on campus.

By **KATIE SCOTT**
NEWS REPORTER

In an effort to alleviate the uphill burden of the UWT Urban campus, the Summit at Snoqualmie has partnered with UWT for the LiftMeUp project. Slated to begin April 1, 2023, the LiftMeUp project is a five-year plan to install ski lifts along all major UWT campus byways. The ski lifts are intended to transport students to courses, clubs and other on-campus activities during campus operating hours. The project is the first collaboration between the Summit at Snoqualmie and UWT.

“The ski lift cars are designed to be mostly weatherproof, accommodating all weather conditions outside of rain, snow and hail,” said Kanya Diggitt, Foreperson of Willitwerk Construction, the company in charge of the project, “Our research found these conditions are typical of the Pacific Northwest and most students are reasonably accustomed to traveling in them.”

In addition to the mostly weatherproof design, the ski lifts will be ADA-accessible and offer AM/FM radio dials, minimally cushioned seats, and refurbished seatbelts reclaimed from retired carnival rides.

“We wanted to bring a sense of nostalgia to the UWT campus project. Tacoma is a place that embodies the grunge and grind of the city. We wanted to encompass that feeling in the features we included within each lift car,” said Wylde R. Tist, lead designer for the UWT LiftMeUp project.

Keeping with the local nostalgia theme, Tist says the ski lift cars were designed with inspiration from the cabins on the Sky Ride, one of the Washington State Fair’s most iconic overhead rides.

“It’s basically the same thing (as the Sky Ride), just minus the windows, doors, and side paneling of the Sky Ride cars. We wanted the feeling of local

familiarity, without the sense of being at the fair,” Jefferson said.

The LiftMeUp ski lifts will run in dual directions, north and south, along S. 17th St., S. 19th St., S. 21st St., and along the UWT grand staircase. The East to West lifts will run simultaneously along Prairie Line Trail, Gillenwater Plaza, and Commerce Plaza, Jefferson Ave., Market Street and C Street.

Diggitt explained, though no additional lifts will be installed to accommodate students using the Whitney Building, a zipline, made of reused classroom materials, will be installed for students to use at their own discretion. The zipline will run in one direction, beginning at the corner of S. 19th St. and Fawcett Avenue, and ending at the top of the UWT grand staircase on Jefferson Avenue.

“Personally, I think the zip line and ski lift will add an element to school that most students haven’t felt since grade school. Not to be corny, but this project put the fun back into fundamental education,” said Amocat Peoples, UWT Senior who is majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Applied Computing.

Construction on the LiftMeUp project is set to begin April 1, 2023. To expedite the installation process, all aforementioned routes, in relation to UWT campus, will be shut down until completion of the installation. Construction for the LiftMeUp Project is projected to be completed in Winter of 2028.

During construction, all UWT courses will be temporarily relocated to the Seattle and Bothell campus, as space allows. After April 1, 2023, UWT students can find out their new course location by visiting the MyAcademics page on their UWT MyPlan account.



Signage for the new UW Tacoma Ski Lifts

PHOTO BY KATIE SCOTT



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Milgard Hall to be demolished

Milgard Hall to be demolished and rebuilt to include “cool” and “new” features.



Milgard Hall before demolition slated for April 31.

PHOTO BY LESLEY MCLAM

By **STRIPES MCGEE**
NEWS EDITOR

Among a growing number of voices who question the sustainability of Milgard Hall, the new building is set to be demolished and reconstructed to better suit UWT sustainability goals.

“Yeah, somewhere along the line after the building was opened, we realized that we could

make Milgard Hall even more sustainable. Which is why the university has decided to demolish the building and start from scratch,” said Joey McJoeyson, a representative for the School of Sustainability.

Milgard Hall is set to be demolished April 31, reconstruction is slated to begin immediately with student volunteers majoring in Arts, Media and Cul-

ture to help with the new design.

“We just think the building is kind of ugly and honestly, I think the AMC majors can really breathe some trendy life into the project and jazz it up,” said a representative of the school, Diane McDianson.

When asked if the rebuild was due to sustainability or a need for a trendy and modern building, McDianson clarified,

“Oh for sure we want to make the new building more sustainable, I guess.”

The school has pledged to include more recycling bins, new shower systems that reuse toilet water and worm composting bins in each classroom to fulfill sustainability goals. There is also a desire to plant real trees in the building to simulate “outdoor learning” for engineering stu-

dents as they already do not go outside as is.

A committee of Arts, Media and Culture majors are currently meeting weekly to discuss ideas for the new redesign and a variety of new features are already being finalized. Along with the new sustainability features, there will be a designated area for sleeping pods so students may rest in between classes, a pool, and five new vending machines that sell Bang and Monster energy drinks.

“We have so many great ideas for this rebuild, we are just so happy the school reached out to us to discuss what we, as students, want to see on campus,” said AMC committee member Susie McSusieson.

While some students are concerned for Milgard Hall, such as Engineering and Business majors, other students are more apathetic about the rebuild.

“I don’t really care much, I am graduating this year and never had any classes in there (Milgard Hall) anyway,” said Politics, Philosophy, and Economics major Daniel Craig.

The opening of the new Milgard Hall (potential name change) is slated for late 2030.

The school has created a short video regarding their decision to demolish Milgard Hall which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ>

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

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Do you want to voice your issues of concern related to news, politics, campus issues and more?

Then we invite you to write a Letter to the Editor.
Letters submitted to the Ledger may be published through both TheTacomaLedger.com and our print edition.





PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

Fall 2023 sees UW Tacoma expanding to the Point Defiance Woods

Announced at a conference at the end of winter quarter, UW Tacoma is planning to expand from their urban jungle to a different jungle entirely.



PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

Sustainability has long been something UWT has fought to address and strengthen.

By PAWL LYCANTHROPE
WEB & LAYOUT MANAGER

Fall of 2023 will see UW Tacoma going green by downsizing on campus and moving classes to the Point Defiance woods.

Tentative plans announced this past quarter have been put in place to relocate a majority of students and professors into the woods, as well as introduce new majors such as Archery, Solar Studies and Basket Weaving.

“Sustainability has long been something UWT has fought to address and strengthen. We hope that this latest change to UWT academics will allow students new opportunities of growth and advancement,” said Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, Chancellor of UW Tacoma.

The decision was first proposed by the UW Tacoma Sustainability Committee. With increasing rent costs and a poor economic climate leading to the closing of several businesses on Pacific Avenue, UW Tacoma has been hard at work to avoid the same.

“We’ve always been worried about costs when it comes to maintaining the campus, but the last few years especially have been difficult. With input from students and professors alike, we finally came to a solution that will solve the problem,” said Jim Gavel, the Committee Chair of the Sustainability Committee.

With building and maintenance fees being cut, the budget has increased to aid in hiring new professors, who have been brought on to help with the new majors and classes that will be introduced.

Among the new professors is

Dr. Ray Bigfoot, a well-known professor in the field of Cryptozoology and Botany who has worked with Oregon universities going green in the same way UW Tacoma is now.

“This is a really exciting time,” Bigfoot said, inspecting abandoned bear caves for future class sites.

He continued, “UW Tacoma, even as an urban school, has always worked really hard to be green and sustainable. I’m proud to help them take that next step further and show just how much change there’s still left to make. Students are going to learn things they’ve never learned before.”

Some established professors who teach technical communication or technology-required classes will host new introduction classes on how to build computers and solar panels out of tree sap, mushrooms and sea glass.

UW Tacoma has always focused on the sustainability of social progress, environmental stewardship and economic stability. With promises of expanding to animal enclosures in the Point Defiance Zoo and underwater zones of the Puget Sound, UW Tacoma is looking towards a brighter, greener future.

“UW Tacoma has always sought to be the best in order to teach the exceptional students we have,” Lange said at the end of the conference held to introduce these new changes.

She continued, “We hope that with this new direction, those exceptional students will enter the world to make exceptional changes. As well, happy April Fool’s.”

Why does nobody talk about how 'Scary Movie 3' ripped off other films?

Scary Movie 3 claims to be a "scary movie," but all it does is copy other more effective films — many of which aren't even horror.

By **EMILIA BELL**
FILM CRITIC

"Scary Movie 3" follows the disjointed lives of journalist Cindy (Anna Farris), aspiring rapper George (Simon Rex), George's brother Tom (Charlie Sheen) who is a farmer, and various others as they face the imminent danger of aliens, a killer tape, and more. David Zucker, known for other terrible films like "Airplane!" and "Top Secret!" directs this 2003 horror flop. The plot is cobbled together (perhaps due to the reshoots the film underwent) and barely feels coherent; many threads are irrelevant and the whole thing feels rushed.

The acting is over the top and completely unbelievable. Charlie Sheen, a revered actor known for respected television show "Two and a Half Men" can't even save this picture. Anna Farris, portraying an ambitious journalist, is genuine enough, but her character is so poorly written it is hard to get over, and her vapid delivery cheapens

the whole thing. The women are treated horribly in this film and shallowly portrayed, leaning into stereotypes. Simon Rex is easily the highlight of the film, and while he is still not giving it 100%, his gritty character work is admirable and acts as a precursor for later roles like the one in "Red Rocket." The underdog arc his character experiences is the most compelling, but that isn't saying much. Leslie Nielsen plays the president and represents a spot-on George W. Bush type, but many of his scenes felt out of place. Many of the actors don't seem to care enough to put in convincing performances, and the characters make puzzling choices and are very unintelligent even when scenarios are obvious.

There are endless continuity issues— at one point a sheriff's hat drastically changes sizes between cuts. It seems an obvious error, yet was left in the final cut. It is not the only example of this type of offense, but it is the most

memorable.

All the violence and death scenes are questionably executed, and many of the effects are simply laughable; much of it is obviously fake. The actors don't seem to be committed either, which undercuts any tension it had. The climax, which should be intense, falls flat and is absurd at best.

Overall, it's just unoriginal. It seems the screenwriters couldn't come up with their own ideas. One of the screenwriters is Craig Mazin, who has also recently ripped off the video game "The Last of Us" and the Chernobyl disaster both for his own HBO television shows. If you want a similar feel but better, it's best to just watch "Signs," "The Ring," "The Matrix Reloaded" and "8 Mile" instead. The film is frankly offensive to cinema.

1/5



Not even scary.



"Scary Movie 3" movie poster.

POSTER BY DIMENSION FILMS



Simon Rex, Anna Farris, and Charlie Sheen in "Scary Movie 3."

PHOTO BY DIMENSION FILMS

UW Tacoma's

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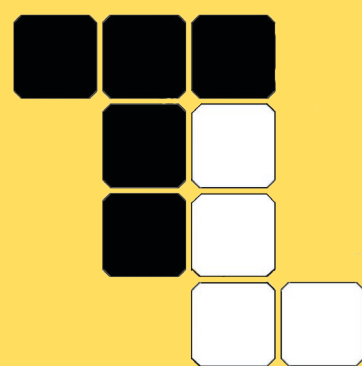


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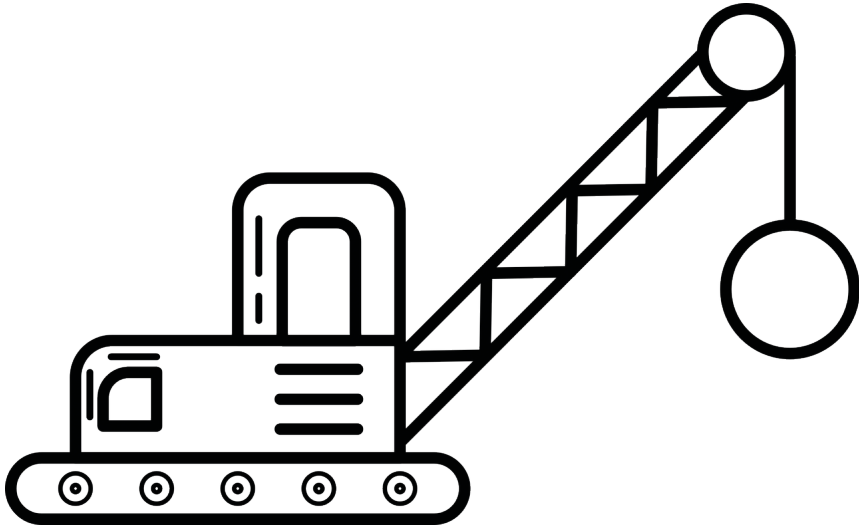


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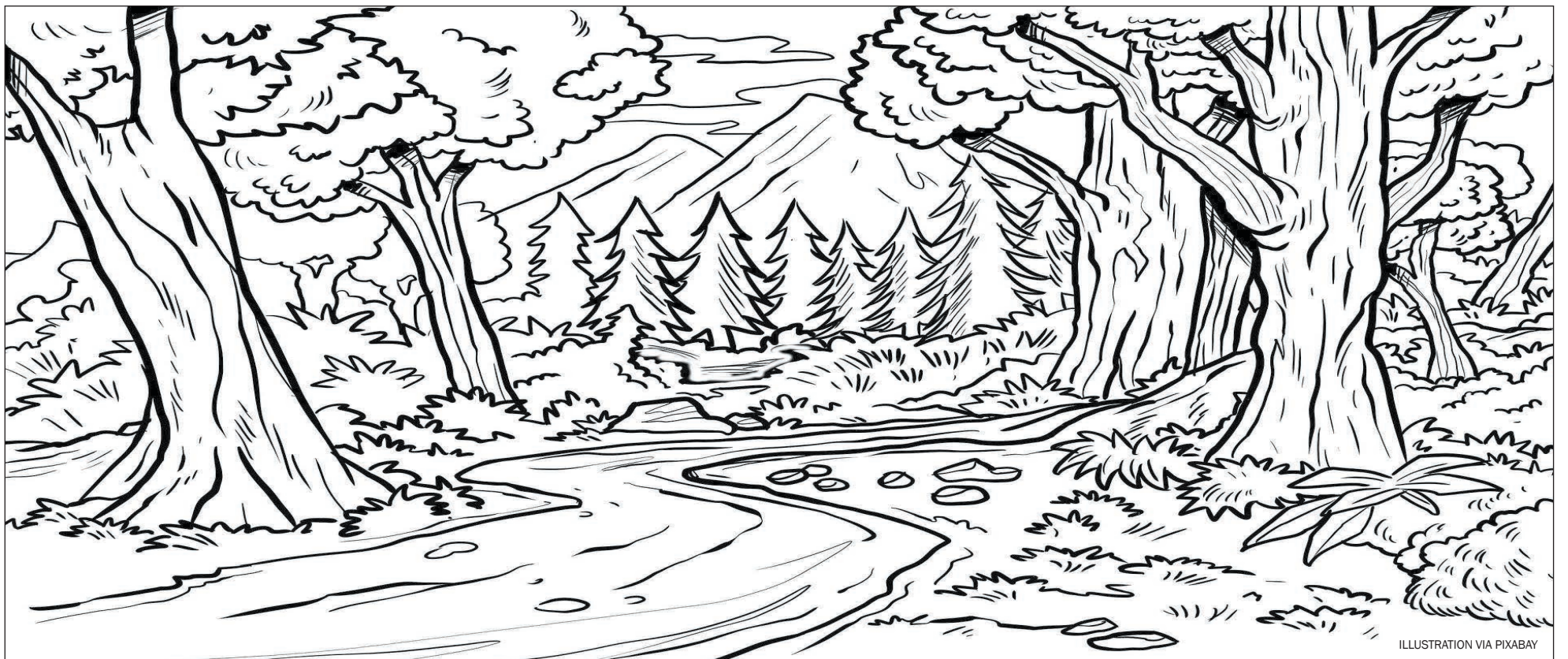


ILLUSTRATION VIA PIXABAY

The Ledger Weekly Playlist

You Fool!

This Week's Playlist

The Ledger's Spotify



PUBLIC PLAYLIST

You Fool!

Happy April Fool's Day - '80s edition!
The Tacoma Ledger • 8 songs, 37 min 39 sec

▶
↓
+
⋮

	# Title	Album
1	Foolin' Def Leppard	Pyromania
2	That Joke Isn't Funny Anymore The Smiths	Meat Is Murder
3	Won't Get Fooled Again - Original Album Version The Who	Who's Next (Deluxe Edition)
4	Nobody's Fool Cinderella	Night Songs
5	A Fool in Love - 2007 Remaster UFO	No Heavy Petting (2007 Remaster)
6	Fool for Your Loving Whitesnake	Ready An' Willing
7	Fools Gold Thin Lizzy	Johnny The Fox
8	Fooled Again (I Don't Like It) Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers	Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers